Patent Claims

1. Process for the preparation of symmetrical and asymmetrical carbonates of the general formula I

in which R and R' are the same or different and signify a straight-chained or branched alkyl group with 1 to 10 C-atoms, a benzyl group unsubstituted or substituted with up to three C_1-C_4-alkyl groups, C_1-C_4-alkoxy groups, halogen atoms, with a cyano group, a nitro group, a trifluoromethyl group or an alkoxycarbonyl group with up to 4 C-atoms, characterised in that one converts alcohols of the general formula II and alkyl or aryl halides of the general formula III

R-OH	R'-HAL
II	III

in which R and R' possess the above-given meaning and HAL stands for chlorine, bromine or iodine, by means of carbon dioxide and caesium carbonate in a dipolar aprotic solvent into organic carbonates of the general formula I.

2. Process according to claim 1, characterised in that the solvent is dimethylformamide, acetonitrile, dimethylacetamide or N-methylpyrrolidone.

3. Process according to claim 1, characterised in that the reaction is carried out at room temperature.

4. Process according to claim 1, characterised in that the carbon dioxide is passed gaseous into the reaction batch.

5. Process according to claim 1, characterised in that the alcohol (II) is placed with a 2 to 3 fold excess of caesium.carbonate in a polar aprotic solvent, carbon dioxide gas is passed in for several hours and subsequently the halide (III) is added in equimolar amount and the passing in of carbon dioxide gas is continued for some time.

6. Symmetrical or asymmetrical carbonates of the general formula I prepared according to the process of claims 1 to 5.